LISSA ANDREA F. DE MESA

Department of Economics, Texas Tech University

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EDUCATION

Texas Tech University
Ph.D. in Economics — Spring 2027 (expected)
MA in Economics — Fall 2025

University of the Philippines Los Baños — August 2022
BS Economics, Field of Specialization: Development Economics
Thesis Topic: Cashless Payments and Economic Growth: Evidence from Selected ASEAN Countries
Honors: Magna Cum Laude, nominated for Best Thesis Award 2022

RESEARCH

Working Papers

- **U.S. Financial Uncertainty and Emerging-Market Vulnerability: Evidence from SVAR and Two-Country DSGE Models** (*Job Market Paper*)
  This paper examines the transmission of U.S. financial uncertainty to Mexico, modeled as a representative small open emerging economy. First, using U.S.-Mexico data, I estimate a Structural Vector Autoregression (SVAR) to establish the empirical effects of a U.S. financial uncertainty shock. The results show a flight-to-safety episode characterized by declines in Mexican equity prices, currency depreciation, and a persistent contraction in economic activity. Second, I develop a non-linear two-country New Keynesian DSGE model, calibrated to U.S.-Mexico data, to explain the mechanisms underlying these empirical responses. The model incorporates an endogenous sovereign risk premium, nominal rigidities, and investment adjustment costs and is consistent with the main empirical responses observed in the SVAR, while providing a structural interpretation of the mechanisms driving them. Counterfactual exercises identify these features as important transmission mechanisms and show that greater trade dependence amplifies the effects of foreign uncertainty through exchange-rate pass-through and imported inflation. The analysis also reveals a policy trade-off: a more aggressive monetary response better stabilizes inflation and exchange-rate dynamics but at the cost of tighter financial conditions, lower asset valuations, and weaker real activity. Overall, the findings highlight the joint role of financial frictions, trade exposure, and monetary policy in shaping emerging-market vulnerability to external financial shocks.
- **U.S. Policy and Financial Shocks in Latin America: Country-Level Evidence** (Under Review)
- **Common Shocks, Unequal Responses: Shift-Share PVAR Evidence from Latin America and Asia** (Under Review)
- **Trade Policy Uncertainty Across Borders: Evidence from Local Projections and SVARs in the United States and China** (Ali Mahmoud) (Under Review)
- **Who Bears Uncertainty? Heterogeneous Labor Outcomes**

Work in Progress

- **The World Cup Superstar Effect: Dynamic Pricing and Information Shocks in Secondary Ticket Markets** (James Kemper and Murad Latifov)

TEACHING

Instructor (Texas Tech University)
Principles of Economics: Microeconomics (large class, 100+ students) — Spring 2026 & Fall 2026
Principles of Economics: Microeconomics — Fall 2025
Principles of Economics: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics — Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant (Texas Tech University) — 2023 - 2024
Microeconomics and ECO 2305: Principles of Economics
Introduction to Econometrics and Graduate Econometrics 1

CONFERENCES

Midwest Macroeconomics Meeting 2026 — November 2026
U.S. Financial Uncertainty and Emerging-Market Vulnerability: Evidence from SVAR and Two-Country DSGE Models

North Texas Economics Conference (NTxEC) — November 2025
U.S. Policy and Financial Shocks in Latin America: Country-Level Evidence

ISA-South 2025 — October 2025
U.S. Policy and Financial Shocks in Latin America: Country-Level Evidence

2022 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Research Fair — July 2022
Cashless Payments and Economic Growth: Evidence from Selected ASEAN Countries

LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Research Seminar *Co-organizer (inaugural)* — Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

- Organized seminars for graduate students to share ideas and present their papers

Isle Utilities, Asia-Pacific *Intern* — July 2021 - August 2021

- Assisted with the online content of the W-lab project in partnership with the Water Services Association of Australia
- Helped in the creation of the Hunter Water Digital Meter Horizon Scan for AU and UK

AWARDS

Dr. Rashid B. Al-Hmoud Competitive Scholarship in Economics — Fall 2023 - present
Teaching Assistantship — Spring 2023 - present

SKILLS

STATA • Matlab • Dynare • R • Python • GTAP (Global Trade Analysis Project)

LANGUAGES

English (native) • Filipino (native) • Spanish (B1 level) • French (beginner)

ELIGIBILITY

Civil Service Exemption for Honor Graduates (Philippines)

- Certificate of Eligibility with number 100104264186